

21 JUN 2003

Umno-Winding-up (Muhyiddin)

MUHYIDDIN PROMISES NOT TO CHALLENGE ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin used the party's general assembly here today to pledge not to challenge the deputy president chosen by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and to fully support him.

He also pledged to fully support Abdullah when the latter takes over as prime minister and Umno deputy president.

Muhyiddin said he believed that Abdullah was capable of shouldering the responsibilities of the top man in the government and party.

"Sir, you definitely can do it," he said to applause from thousands of delegates when winding up the debate at Umno's 54th general assembly which ended today.

"The statement that I made outside I must repeat here for the record. What's important is not outside but in this august hall. It comes sincerely and transparently from my heart," he said.

Muhyiddin said that although traditionally, as a vice-president, he was qualified to be chosen, he was leaving the choice to Abdullah.

The important thing was to ensure continuity in the leadership to strengthen the party and country.

He said Abdullah and his deputy needed the support because they had to work hard to help the Malays, Umno and the government.

"Why can't we help. It's only about not contesting or challenging his (Abdullah's) choice," he said, stressing that undivided support must be given to the new leadership and translated into action in the next general election.

Muhyiddin said he left his fate to God.

He also proposed that the post of president not be contested.

Muhyiddin also extended apologies to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for failing to implement many projects planned by Dr Mahathir for the development of the Malays.

"I represent everyone present in apologising to the president because we are weak, we did not fulfil the president's dreams and ambitions, we made mistakes and did not listen to his advice from time to time," he said.

Muhyiddin ended his speech with a special prayer for Dr Mahathir.

"I'm not good at poetry, I'm not good at making jokes. I'm regarded as always serious, seldom smiling," he said, explaining why he chose to say a prayer instead of reciting a poem like other leaders.

-- BERNAMA

LES KHY RON Jk